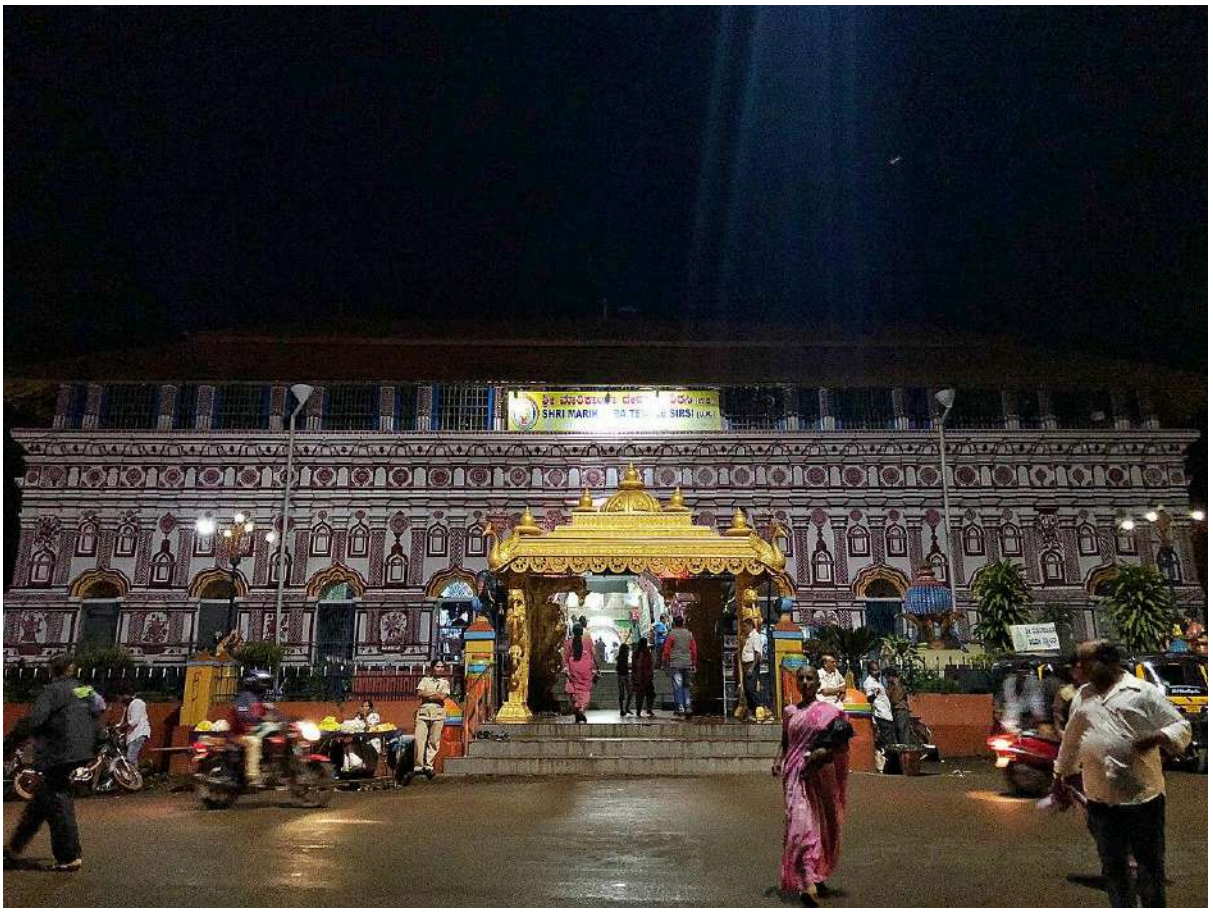
Sri Marikamba Temple, Sirsi, Karnataka

Ref: Wikipedia



Marikamba Temple, Sirsi

Sirsi Marikamba Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Marikamba Devi (Durga Devi), located in Sirsi, Karnataka, It is also known as Marigudi. It was built in 1688. Sri Sirsi Marikamba Devi is the "elder sister" of all Durga Devi's in Karnataka.

Features

The temple's façade, a 19th-century addition, is painted blue. After one enters through the façade, there is courtyard in the middle, which has cloisters surrounding it. The cloisters are filled with images of deities from the Hindu epics. The changes made inside the temple have hidden any evidence of older structures. The sanctum sanctorum has the central image of a fierce form of the goddess Durga, multi-armed (eight shoulders[7]), riding a tiger and killing a demon. It is believed[*by whom?*] that the 7-foot-tall (2.1 m) image was retrieved from a pond on the road to Hangal. The temple has very special paintings of murals in Kaavi art, an art form which was popular in the coastal Konkan region of Karnataka. In this art form, now extinct, the top plastered layer of the mural was first dyed with a red pigment, which when removed revealed a lower white layer of plaster over which the murals were created.[8]

Worship

The main priest at the temple belongs to the Vishvakarma (Vishvabrahmin) community.[7][9]

When Mahatma Gandhi visited Sirsi in 1934 he refused to visit the temple, as animal sacrifice was a prevalent ancient practice at the temple; the sacrifice was in the form of offering of he-buffalo as a sacrifice to appease the goddess.[7] A he-buffalo was specially bred for offering as a sacrifice to the deity during the biennial Rathayatra (chariot festival). Following Gandhi's protest, there was a successful movement in the town to abolish animal sacrifice spearheaded by Keshwain, chief trustee of the temple, in association with Vitthal Rao Hodike, a teacher and dedicated Gandhian of the town.[7]

Photos

Sirsi Marikamba Devi (Durga Devi)

Ref: marikambatemple.com

Sri Marikamba Temple. Sirsi

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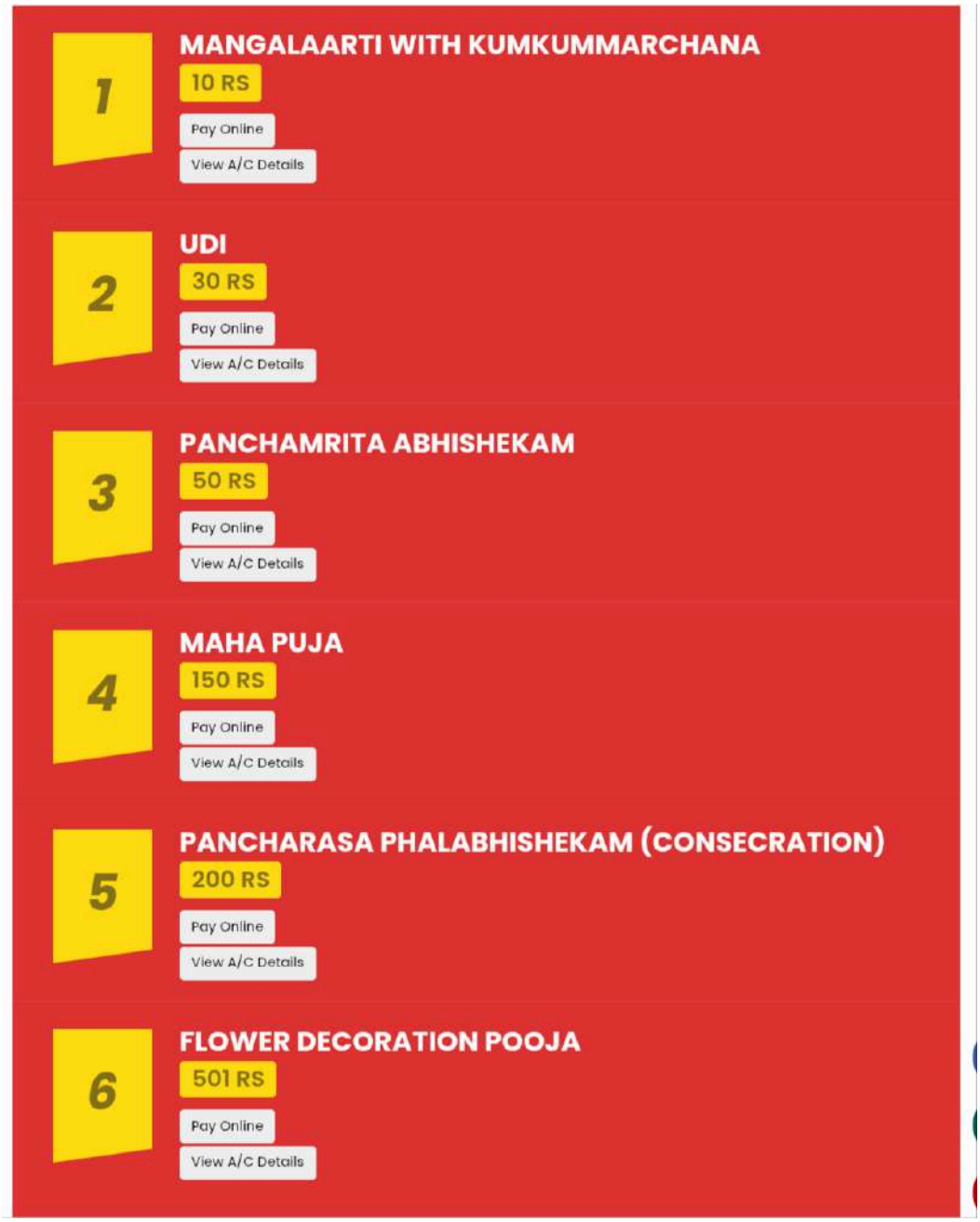
Temple history

The first installation of Sri Marikamba Devi took place in 1689 AD. At that time, Sirsi was a hamlet. When devotees requested the Mahaprabhu of the Sonda state, which was then part of the Vijayanagara Empire, to install a wooden idol of Sri Devi, which was said to have been found in a lake here, the king Sri Immadi Sadashivaraya granted permission to install the Sri Devi as the village deity in Sirsi. For hundreds of years, the elders of the village were the leaders and looked after the administration. The magnificent Chandrashala, sanctum sanctorum, gopuram and main gate of the Sri temple were all built between 1850 and 1875 AD. Since 1955 AD, the administration of the temple has been under the authority of a 5-member Dharmadarshi Mandal. The U.K. District Judge nominates the Dharmadarshis once every 5 years. Like Kalika in Bengal, Amba Bhavani in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, Shri Marikamba in Sirsi is the most awakened Shakti Peetha in Karnataka. Shri Devi is famous for fulfilling all the wishes of her devotees just by praying. Jayanti, Navratri, Kartikotsava and the eight-day grand fair held every two years are the famous religious festivals held here. Services are held at Shri Devi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7 am to 10 pm and on other days from 7 am to 9 pm. The Shri temple is also a center for educational and cultural programs. It also has a library and reading room.

Continuous service



Permanent services

Facilities in the Temple

Parking

A specially designated wide area has been allocated for parking the vehicles of devotees. Devotees are requested to proceed towards the parking area and not block the access road.

Luggage room

Luggage rooms have been set up to keep devotees' belongings safe.

Shoe stand

It is recommended that devotees keep their footwear at the footwear stand available on the right side of the temple administration office. Devotees are requested to use this facility instead of leaving their footwear anywhere before entering the temple.

Information Center

Any information regarding the service/worship conducted in the temple can be obtained from the "Temple Information Center".

Annaprasada / Purified drinking water

Free Prasad is available at the temple every afternoon for devotees. A water purification unit has been built for the health of devotees.

CCTV / Metal Detectors

CCTV cameras/metal detectors have been installed at various locations in the temple for security purposes.

Public toilet

Public toilets are built to promote the importance of hygiene and cleanliness.

Dressing rooms / bathrooms

Bathhouses are built to emphasize the importance of hygiene and cleanliness.

Welfare Hall / Assembly Hall

A spacious Kalyana Mantapa and a meeting hall have been constructed in the temple premises.

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Videos

Marikamba Devi Jaatra 2024….Mahapooja (6.46.20):

https://www.youtube.com/live/pyaug4ZbBxY?si=iaihQyuZj1Pt5uqQ

2024…Mahapooja (4.14.46):

https://www.youtube.com/live/O6vl6laloSo?si=--wmDrZ45DVb-_t8

Ratharohana (4.47.30):

https://www.youtube.com/live/5DP_AzdnkBQ?si=sEmNWx4sg9yNbRBY

Kalyanotsava (4.20.00):

https://www.youtube.com/live/DcFwl9EOl6g?si=gMqZcMt_vKAc0fap

Navaratri…Bharatanatya and Keertan (4.58.13):

https://www.youtube.com/live/qg4lBdt0j-M?si=tiVl0Xo4QDhB7sFA

Kartik utsava 2023 (1.36.44):

https://www.youtube.com/live/9mnLGqwT0dE?si=zlMqLCRyriQszX7Z

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Contact info

Call: +91 8384226360

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Donation info

Offline Donation BHAKTAKOTI NIDHI (ANNADADANA SEVE)

Account Name : **President, shri Marikamba temple, sirsi**

Bank : **CANARA BANK, Banavasi Road Branch,Sirsi**

Account Number : **03672200007690**

IFSC Code : **CNRB0010367**

Online Donation

BHAKTAKOTI ANNADANA SEVE

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OTHER DONATIONS

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Ref: Google Gemini

The **Shree Marikamba Temple** in Sirsi is one of the most revered Shakti Peethas in Karnataka, serving as the cultural and spiritual heart of the Malenadu region.

1. Location

- **Address:** Shree Marikamba Temple, CP Bazar / Main Road, Sirsi – 581401, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka, India.
- **Geography:** Situated amidst the Western Ghats (Malenadu region).

2. How to Get There

- **By Bus:** Sirsi is well-connected by KSRTC and private buses to major cities like Hubballi, Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Belagavi. The temple is located less than 2 km from the Sirsi Central Bus Stand.
- **By Train:**
    - **Talguppa Railway Station:** ~54 km away.
    - **Haveri Railway Station:** ~72 km away (major hub connecting South & North Karnataka).
    - **Hubballi Junction:** ~102 km away.
- **By Air:**
    - **Hubballi Airport (HBX):** ~105 km.
    - **Goa International Airport (Dabolim/Mopa):** ~160–180 km.

3. Speciality of the Temple

- **Elder Sister Status:** Goddess Marikamba of Sirsi is traditionally regarded as the *"Akka"* (elder sister) to all other Durga/Mari deities across Karnataka.
- **Kaavi Art Heritage:** The interior cloisters feature centuries-old **Kaavi Kale** (traditional Konkan red pigment monochrome wall murals depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata).
- **Unique Eco-Friendly Practices:** In adherence to non-violence, animal sacrifices were completely abolished decades ago and replaced with traditional vegetable/fruit offerings (like cutting a wooden pumpkin/cucumber).

4. History and Legends

- **Consecration Year:** Built in **1688 CE**.
- **The Legend of the Water Tank:** According to local tradition, a devotee named Kadamba from the village of Hangal/Viratanagara discovered a wooden box submerged in a local water tank (*Kotetheertha*). Inside was the divine image of Goddess Marikamba.
- **Establishment:** The idol was brought to Sirsi and consecrated during the reign of the Sonda (Sonde) Dynasty kings who ruled the region, who proclaimed the deity as the celestial protectress of the land.

5. Architecture

- **Style:** Traditional Coastal Karnataka / Malenadu wooden and red-clay architecture infused with 19th-century structural expansions.
- **Sanctum & Courtyard:** Features an open inner courtyard surrounded by pillared cloisters.
- **Kaavi Murals:** The walls are decorated with red and white *Kaavi* artwork created using burnt red clay and sea-shell lime plaster.

6. Main Deity and Sub-Deities

- **Main Deity:** Goddess **Marikamba Devi** (an 8-armed, nearly 7-foot tall wooden deity painted in bright red and gold, holding sacred weapons while slaying Mahishasura).
- **Sub-Deities & Surrounding Shrines:**
    - Lord Ganesha
    - Lord Shiva / Matangi aspects
    - Kshetrapala Shrines within the complex precinct

7. Daily Rituals, Poojas & Charges

Timings & Routine

- **Temple Hours:** Open daily from **6:00 AM to 10:00 PM** (Sundays up to 9:00 PM).
- **Morning Abhisheka:** 6:00 AM – 7:30 AM
- **Maha Mangalarathi:** 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM
- **Evening Pooja:** 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- **Anna Prasadam (Free Meals):** Served daily to all visiting devotees around 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Standard Daily Pooja Tariffs

(Note: Charges are nominal as per the temple trust board guidelines; subject to periodic updates)

- **Archana / Kumkumarchana:** ₹10 – ₹50
- **Kunkuma Seva / Mangalarathi:** ₹20 – ₹100
- **Tula Bhara Seva:** Variable based on commodity weight (Coconut, Sugar, Jaggery).

8. Special Poojas and Charges

- **Friday Special Pooja:** Dedicated *Alankara* and elaborate *Abhisheka* (Tuesdays & Fridays are considered auspicious). (~₹200 – ₹500)
- **Chandi Homa / Navachandi Homa:** Conducted on designated auspicious dates (~₹1,500 – ₹5,000+ depending on personal inclusion).
- **Saree Offering (Udi Tumbuvudu):** Offering traditional sarees and coconut/rice litany to the Goddess (~₹100+ administrative fee).
- **Vehicle Pooja:**
    - Two-Wheeler: ~₹50
    - Four-Wheeler: ~₹150 – ₹200

9. Festivals Celebrated

- **Sirsi Marikamba Jatre (Biennial Fair):** The grandest festival held **once every 2 years** (in February/March) for 9 days. It is one of the largest temple fairs in South India, attracting over 15 to 20 lakh devotees. A massive wooden chariot carrying the Goddess is pulled in a grand procession.
- **Navaratri & Vijayadashami:** Celebrated with elaborate flower decorations, daily *Alankaram*, and special cultural programs.
- **Deepotsava & Karthikotsava:** Illumination of the entire temple premises during the month of Kartika.

10. Facilities Available for Devotees

- **Free Anna Prasadam Hall:** Large dining hall providing free meals daily.
- **Choultries / Yatri Nivas:** Basic guest rooms managed by the Temple Trust for overnight stays.
- **Cloakroom & Shoe Counters:** Managed counters at the entry gates.
- **Drinking Water & Restrooms:** Clean public facilities within the complex.

11. Do's and Don'ts

- **Do's:**
    - Wear modest, traditional attire (Dhoti/Kurta for men, Saree/Salwar for women).
    - Stand in designated queues for Darshan.
    - Cooperate with security during peak days (Tuesdays, Fridays, and festival periods).
- **Don'ts:**
    - Photography inside the main sanctum sanctorum (*Garbhagudi*) is strictly prohibited.
    - Do not carry leather items or plastic inside inner sanctum zones.
    - Avoid loud phone calls near the prayer spaces.

12. Nearby Temples

- **Shree Maha Ganapati Temple, Sirsi** (~1 km)
- **Sahasralinga** (~14 km): 1000 Shiva Lingas carved into rocks in the middle of the Shalmala River.
- **Sonda (Sondhe) Vadiraja Mutt & Trivikrama Temple** (~20 km): Seat of Sri Vadiraja Swamiji.
- **Banavasi Madhukeshwara Temple** (~24 km): Ancient 5th-century Kadamba Dynasty stone temple.
- **Yana Rocks (Bhairaveshwara Shikhara)** (~45 km).

13. Nearby Hotels

- **Hotel Shivani International** (Market Road)
- **Hotel Samrat International** (Near Bus Stand)
- **Hotel Madhuvana**
- **Hotel Panchavati**

14. Nearby Tourist Spots

- **Unchalli Waterfalls (Lushington Falls):** ~30 km
- **Shivaganga Waterfalls:** ~38 km
- **Benne Hole Falls:** ~35 km

- **Gudavi Bird Sanctuary:** ~41 km

15. Donation Info & Official Contact

Devotees can contribute directly to temple development, mid-day meals (*Anna Dāna*), and *Jatre* arrangements through the official trust accounts.

- **Official Phone:** +91 83842 26360 / 08384-226360
- **Official Email:** sirsimarikamba@gmail.com
- **Official Website:** marikambatemple.com

Bank Details for Offline Donations (Temple Section):

- **Account Name:** President, Shri Marikamba Temple, Sirsi
- **Bank:** State Bank of India (Hulekal Road Branch, Sirsi)
- **Account Number:** 10816616543
- **IFSC Code:** SBIN0000917

****
Ref: GrokAI

Shri Marikamba Temple (also known as Marigudi or Doddamma Temple), Sirsi, Karnataka

Location

Sirsi-Banavasi Road, Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka – 581401 (or 581402 in some references). Coordinates approximately 14°36′43″N 74°50′22″E. It is centrally located in Sirsi town.

How to Get There

- **By Road**: Well-connected by KSRTC and private buses from Bengaluru (~400–425 km), Hubli/Hubballi (~100–105 km), Shimoga, Mangalore, Karwar, and other places. Taxis and autos are available locally.
- **By Train**: Nearest stations include Kumta (Konkan Railway, ~60 km), Talguppa (~54 km), Haveri, and Hubli Junction (~100 km). From there, buses or taxis to Sirsi.
- **By Air**: Nearest airport is Hubli (HBX, ~100–105 km). Other options include Belgaum or Goa (Dabolim). Taxis/buses from the airport.
The temple is easily reachable within Sirsi by auto-rickshaw or on foot from the bus stand area.

Speciality of This Temple

It is one of the most important and powerful Shakti Peethas in Karnataka, dedicated to Goddess Marikamba (a fierce form of Durga/Parvati). Known as “Doddamma” (Elder

Mother/Sister), she is regarded as the elder sister of all Marikamba/Mariamma deities in Karnataka.
The temple features rare Kaavi (Kavi) art murals (an extinct coastal Konkan style using red-and-white plaster techniques depicting epic scenes).
It is famous for its large idol, free daily Annaprasadam (meals), and the massive biennial Marikamba Jatre (one of South India's largest fairs, drawing over 2.5 million devotees).

Animal sacrifice was historically practiced but abolished decades ago after social reform movements.

History and Legends

The temple was established around 1688–1689 CE (Shalivahana Saka 1611, Vaishakha Shukla Ashtami, a Tuesday).
Local legend says the ~7-foot (2.1 m) wooden idol of the multi-armed goddess was recovered from a tank/pond on the road to Hangal (Haveri district).
King Immadi Sadashiva Rao (of the Sonda kingdom) granted permission for its installation as the village deity, following guidance from the Swami of Nandikeshwara Math.
Earlier local worship involved village deities like Marki-Durgi.
The deity is also identified with Renuka/Yellamma and Mahishasuramardini.
The façade and major structures were expanded in the 19th century (around 1850–1875).

Administration is under a temple trust/board. Historical notes include visits by saints and the 1930s social reforms that ended animal sacrifice (prompted in part by Mahatma Gandhi's 1934 visit, during which he declined to enter due to the practice) and opened the temple to all communities.

Architecture

The temple has a distinctive blue-painted 19th-century façade. Inside is a central courtyard surrounded by cloisters filled with images of deities from the Hindu epics (Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc.). The sanctum (garbhagriha) houses the main idol.

The complex includes spacious halls/verandahs and is noted for Kaavi murals (red pigment on plaster revealing white underlayers for designs; now rare). Renovations have obscured some older elements. Sub-shrines are present in the complex.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

****Main Deity****:
Goddess Marikamba Devi (fierce form of Durga/Parvati/Mahishasuramardini), depicted as an approximately 7-foot-tall, eight-armed figure riding a tiger/lion and slaying a demon. She holds various weapons.

****Sub-deities/Shrines**** **(within or associated with the complex):**

- Bhutaraja
- Sri Trayambakeshwara (Shiva)

- Sri Mahaganapati
- Sri Sanna Hanumanta and Enne Hanumanta
- Sri Vithoba Rukhumayi
- Sri Marki Durgi

And others. Daily and special poojas are conducted at these.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Typical timings (subject to change; confirm on-site or via official channels):
- Temple open: Generally 6:00 AM – 9:00/10:00 PM (varies by day; often later on Tuesdays/Fridays).
- Morning darshan/Abhisheka: ~6:00–7:30/12:00 AM.
- Afternoon break is common (~12:00–5:00 PM).
- Maha Mangalarathi: ~12:00–12:30 PM.
- Evening pooja/Aarti: ~6:30–7:30 PM.
- **Special Friday pooja/alankara**.
- **Free Anna Prasadam (community meal) typically around 12:30–2:30 PM or ~2:00 PM daily**.

Approximate seva charges (from available listings; verify current rates as they can change; book via official website or counter):

- Kumkumarchane with Mangalarati: ₹10
- Udi: ₹30
- Panchamrita Abhisheka: ₹50
- Mahapooja: ₹150
- Pancharasa Phalabhisheka Archana: ₹200
- Pushpalankara Pooja: ₹501

Higher permanent/seva options (e.g., Saptashati Parayana ~₹2,001; various Udi/Pallakki/Deepotsava ~₹6,001; Bhaktakoti Nidhi/Annadanam contributions) also exist. Sevas are more extensive on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Special Poojas and Their Charges

Special sevas, alankaras, homas, and festival-related rituals (Navaratri, Shivaratri, Sankashti, etc.) are offered at the main and sub-temples.
Permanent sevas and specific offerings (e.g., for annadanam) are available.
Exact special charges vary; check the official website (marikambatemple.com) or contact the temple for current lists, online booking (where available), and festival rates. Avoid unofficial third-party bookings.

Festivals Celebrated

- ****Marikamba Jatre (Thayi Jatre Mahotsav)**:** Biennial (every alternate year, typically February–March; e.g., recent/next around Feb–Mar 2026/2028). 8–9 days of grand chariot processions, cultural programs, shops, and celebrations depicting the goddess's forms

(Parvati marriage, Durga slaying Mahishasura, Kali). One of South India's largest fairs (attendance 25 lakh+). Symbolic offerings now replace historical animal sacrifice.
- **Navaratri** (**major, with special alankaras).**
- **Deepavali, Kartika Deepotsava (illuminations), Jayanti (consecration anniversary on Vaishakha Shukla Ashtami), Shravana specials, Ugadi, and other traditional observances.**

The temple stays open longer and is highly crowded during these.

Facilities Available for Devotees (Such as Accommodation)

- Free daily Annaprasadam and purified drinking water.
- Parking (designated area; paid/nearby options).
- Luggage room, footwear stand, information centre.
- Public toilets, dressing rooms/bath facilities.
- Kalyana Mantapa / sabhabhavana (hall for events).
- CCTV and security (metal detectors).
- Library/reading room and educational/cultural activities noted historically.
- No major on-site lodge listed as primary, but temple-related basic arrangements or nearby options may be available during festivals (book in advance). Cloakroom-style facilities for belongings.

Do's and Don'ts

****Do's**:**
- Dress modestly in traditional Indian attire (saree/salwar for women; dhoti/kurta/trousers + shirt for men). A formal dress code has been enforced (traditional clothing preferred/required for darshan).
- Remove footwear; use the stand.
- Maintain silence and respect in the sanctum.
- Follow queue systems and instructions from authorities.
- Bathe and wear clean clothes if possible.
- Accept prasad respectfully.

****Don'ts**:**
- No photography inside the inner sanctum (outer areas often permitted).
- Avoid shorts, sleeveless, revealing, or tight Western wear.
- Leather items may be restricted in some contexts.
- No smoking, alcohol, or non-vegetarian items inside.
- Do not litter or disrupt rituals.
- Mobile phones: switch off or use respectfully near the sanctum.

Confirm current rules on arrival, as enforcement can be strict.

Nearby Temples
- Sub-shrines within the complex (Ganesha, Shiva/Trayambakeshwara, Hanuman variants, Vithoba, Marki Durgi, Bhutaraja, etc.).
- Madhukeshwara Temple, Banavasi (~22–24 km) — ancient Kadamba-era Shiva temple.
- Sahasralinga (Shalmala River, ~14–17 km) — thousands of carved Shivalingas.

- Other local temples such as Ambagiri or smaller shrines in Sirsi.

Nearby Hotels

Options in and around Sirsi (book in advance, especially during Jatre):
- Hotel Supriya International (very close, ~1–1.3 km).
- Captain's Camp (~2–2.4 km).
- Kamadhenu Comforts, Ashwini Hotel & Lodging, OYO properties, Samrat Guest House, and various budget lodges/guesthouses near the bus stand or town centre.
- Resorts slightly farther (e.g., Ibbani Jungle Resort, Essentia Resort & Spa).
Prices vary from budget (~₹500–1500) to mid-range. Many offer pure veg options.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Sahasralinga (~14–17 km).
- Unchalli Falls (Lushington Falls, ~30–35 km) — scenic waterfall with trek.
- Yana Rocks/Caves (~40 km) — unique limestone formations and caves.
- Banavasi (ancient capital, Madhukeshwara Temple, ~22–24 km).
- Jog Falls (~58 km).
- Shivaganga Falls, Magod Falls, and other Western Ghats nature spots, bird sanctuaries, and forest areas.

Best overall time to visit the region: October–March (avoid heavy monsoon if possible for accessibility).

Donation Info with Contact Phone Number

****Official contact****: +91 83842 26360
Email: sirsimarikamba@gmail.com
Website: https://marikambatemple.com

****Bank details for donations**** (as listed on official site; verify before transferring):

- Account Name: President, Shri Marikamba Temple, Sirsi
- State Bank of India, Hulekal Road Branch, Sirsi — A/c 10816616543, IFSC SBIN0000917
- Canara Bank, Banavasi Road Branch, Sirsi — A/c 03672200000012, IFSC CNRB0010367
- Bhaktakoti Nidhi (Annadanam Seve): Canara Bank A/c 03672200007690, IFSC CNRB0010367

Online donation options and e-seva/hundi forms are available on the website. Contributions support temple activities, annadanam, and maintenance.

Any Other Info

- Free entry for general darshan; special sevas paid.
- Highly managed during festivals with crowd control, temporary parking, and security.
- Historical significance includes social reforms (end of animal sacrifice; temple entry for all).

- The temple runs or supports educational/cultural activities and has a library.
- For the most accurate, current timings, seva rates, online bookings, and festival schedules, always check the official website (marikambatemple.com) or call the temple, as details can change. Avoid unofficial sites for payments.
- **Best visited on weekday mornings for quieter darshan**; Tuesdays/Fridays and festivals are busier and more vibrant.

This is a living place of devotion — plan respectfully, and the experience of the powerful goddess and the temple's atmosphere is highly regarded by devotees. Safe travels!

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Ref: ClaudeAI

Marikamba Temple, Sirsi, Karnataka

Location

The temple is on Sirsi-Banavasi Road in Sirsi town, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka, about 2.5 km from the Sirsi Bus Stand. (Trawell)
Its coordinates are roughly 14°36′43″N, 74°50′22″E. (Wikipedia) Sirsi sits at an elevated location in the Western Ghats, known for a pleasant climate and nearby waterfalls.

How to get there

By road: Sirsi is well connected by KSRTC and private buses to Hubli, Sirsi's own bus stand, and towns like Yellapur, Kumta, and Karwar. The temple is a short auto/walk from the bus stand.

By rail: Nearest railway stations are Talaguppa and Hubli Junction (Hubli is the major hub, ~100 km away).

By air: Nearest airports are Hubli Airport (~100 km) and Dabolim (Goa) Airport further away.

Speciality of the temple

It's one of Karnataka's foremost Shakti Peethas — Marikamba is regarded as the mother divine here, comparable to Kali of Bengal and Ambabhavani of Maharashtra. (Tripoto)

Sri Sirsi Marikamba Devi is considered the "elder sister" of all Durga/Mariamma deities in Karnataka, (Wikipedia) hence the name "Doddamma" (elder mother).

Devotees particularly visit to pray for marriage to a person of one's choice and for the health and longevity of a husband. (Temples in India Info)

History and legends

The Goddess was first installed around 1689, when Sirsi was a small hamlet.

A wooden idol of the Devi, said to have been found in a local pond/tank, was brought here at devotees' request; King Immadi Sadashiva Raya of the Sonda dynasty (a feudatory of the Vijayanagara Empire) gave permission to install her as the village deity. (marikambatemple)

Other accounts specify the idol was discovered in a pond near Hangal, (Trawell) and local legends associate the goddess with Renuka/Yellamma.

The temple's grand sanctum, tower and main gateway were built between 1850 and 1875, and since 1955 the temple has been administered by a five-member board of trustees appointed every five years by the Uttara Kannada District Judge. (marikambatemple)

A notable historical episode: animal sacrifice (buffaloes, sheep, fowls) was a long-standing practice at the temple's fair. In 1933 Mahatma Gandhi visited Sirsi during his Harijan-upliftment tour but refused to enter the temple, expressing distress at the mass slaughter. (Kamat's Potpourri)

Local reformers led by trustee S.N. Keshwain gradually phased out the sacrifices in favour of monetary offerings and special poojas, and temple income was redirected to education and a hospital. (Kamat's Potpourri)

Architecture

The temple's façade, a 19th-century addition, is painted blue. Beyond the façade is a central courtyard surrounded by cloisters filled with images of deities from the Hindu epics. (Wikipedia)
The temple walls are decorated on both sides with Kavi art (Trawell) — a mural style of red pigment against a white background, once popular in coastal Konkan Karnataka. (Blessings on the Net)

Main deity and sub-deities

- **Main deity:** Goddess Durga in her fierce form, with eight arms, mounted on a tiger — the central image in the sanctum sanctorum. (Trawell) The wooden idol is about 7 feet tall. (Tripoto)
- **Nearby shrines** within the temple complex are dedicated to Maha Ganapati and Sri Gopalakrishna. (Trawell)

Daily rituals, poojas and charges (per the temple's own website; confirm on-site as rates change)

- Kumkumarchane with Mangalarathi — ₹10 (marikambatemple)
- Udi (offering) — ₹30 (marikambatemple)
- Panchamrutha Abhisheka — ₹50 (marikambatemple)
- Mahapooja — ₹150 (marikambatemple)

- Pancharasa Phalabhisheka Archane — ₹200 (marikambatemple)
- Pushpalankara Pooja — ₹501 (marikambatemple)

Temple hours: on Tuesdays and Fridays, seva runs from 7 AM to 10 PM; on other days, 7 AM to 9 PM. (marikambatemple) Free lunch prasadam (Annadana) is served daily around midday.

Special/perpetual sevas (Shashwatha Sevas) and charges

- Bhaktakoti Nidhi Sanchayana Annasantarpane — ₹2,501 (marikambatemple)
- Saptashati Parayana — ₹2,001 (marikambatemple)
- Udi-tumbuvudu (filling the sari-fold) for 5 married women, with Parayana — ₹6,001 (marikambatemple)
- Palakki Utsava Pooja — ₹6,001 (marikambatemple)
- Deepotsava (perpetual lamp offering) — ₹6,001 (marikambatemple)

Festivals celebrated

- Marikamba Jatre (Jatra Mahotsava) — the biggest event, held once every two years, usually in February or March, and considered one of Karnataka's/South India's largest fairs. (Poojn.in) During the festival the goddess is taken in a large wooden chariot (Ratha) to a spot called "Marikamba Gadduge" and seated there for seven days (Trawell) before returning.
- Marikamba Jayanthi — the goddess's annual installation-day celebration.
- Navratri — one of the most crowded and auspicious periods at the temple. (Temple Timings)
- Karthikotsava (Kartik festival), noted on the temple's own history page.

Facilities for devotees

Per the temple's official site: dedicated vehicle parking, a luggage/cloak room, a footwear stand near the administrative office, an information center for seva/pooja queries, free lunch prasadam and purified drinking water, CCTV and metal detectors for security, public restrooms, dressing rooms/bathing facilities, and a large Kalyana Mantapa (marriage hall) and Sabha Bhavan (community hall) within the temple premises. (marikambatemple)

Accommodation options are mostly private lodges/hotels in Sirsi town itself rather than temple-run guesthouses.

Do's and Don'ts

- Dress modestly/traditionally; avoid shorts, sleeveless tops, or casual attire inside the temple. (Travellers Aura)
- Remove footwear at the designated stand before entering.
- Expect heavier crowds on Tuesdays, Fridays, and during Navratri — early morning visits on weekdays are calmer.
- Photography inside the sanctum is generally restricted; check with temple staff.
- Follow queue/security protocols (bags may be checked given CCTV/metal detectors).

Nearby temples

- Maha Ganapati Temple (within the same complex)
- Sri Gopalakrishna Temple (within the same complex)
- Sahasralinga (Shalmala river, rock-cut Shiva lingas) — a short drive from Sirsi
- Chandragutti Renukamba/Yellamma Temple, a nearby village associated with the Marikamba legend

Nearby tourist spots

Sirsi is a base for several Western Ghats attractions: Sahasralinga, Marikamba Falls, Uncchalli (Lushington) Falls, Burude Falls, Vibhuti Falls, Yana rock formations, and Magod Falls — all within roughly 20–60 km.

Nearby hotels

Sirsi town has several mid-range hotels and lodges (e.g., near the main bus stand and market area) — since specific names/ratings change, it's best to check current listings on booking platforms for options near the temple.

Donation information and contact

- Address: Sirsi-Banavasi Road, Sirsi – 581401, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka
- Phone: +91 83842 26360 (marikambatemple)
- Email: sirsimarikamba@gmail.com (marikambatemple)
- Official website (for seva bookings/donations): marikambatemple.com — has a "Donate" and "Seva Services" section with online payment/account details for each seva.

Other info

- The temple also functions as a hub for educational and cultural programs, and maintains a library/reading room. (marikambatemple)
- There's no online darshan-slot booking as such — devotees book sevas/darshan at the counter, though the official site does allow online payment for specific sevas.
- Note: figures like founding year vary slightly across sources (1688–1689) since they mark different milestones (original wooden idol installation vs. later temple structure) — treat both as broadly correct.

For the latest timings, seva prices, or festival dates (these do get revised), it's best to call the number above or check marikambatemple.com directly before your visit.

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Ref: perplexityAI

Sri Marikamba Temple, Sirsi, Karnataka

Introduction

Sri Marikamba Temple is one of the most important Shakti shrines in Karnataka. Situated in Sirsi town in Uttara Kannada district, the temple is dedicated to Goddess Marikamba, a powerful form of Goddess Durga. The shrine is also popularly known as **Marigudi** or **Doddamma Temple**. [2][3]

The temple is especially famous for its large wooden idol of Goddess Marikamba, its traditional worship, its colourful architecture, and the grand Marikamba Jatre held once every two years. [12]

Location

- **Temple:** Sri Marikamba Temple, Sirsi
- **Address:** Sirsi–Banavasi Road, Sirsi, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka – 581401
- **Popular name:** Marigudi or Doddamma Temple
- **Distance from Sirsi Bus Stand:** Approximately 2.5 km
- **Presiding deity:** Goddess Marikamba, a form of Durga Devi [3][9]

The temple is located within Sirsi town and can be easily reached by auto-rickshaw, taxi, private vehicle, or local bus.

How to Reach

By Road

Sirsi is well connected by road with several cities in Karnataka and neighbouring states.

Approximate road distances are:

- Bengaluru: 420–430 km
- Hubballi: 100–110 km
- Shivamogga: approximately 100 km
- Sagara: approximately 75 km
- Kumta: approximately 65–70 km
- Gokarna: approximately 80–85 km
- Karwar: approximately 145–150 km

KSRTC and private buses operate to Sirsi from Bengaluru, Hubballi, Shivamogga, Mangaluru, Goa, and other important towns. [1]

By Train

Sirsi does not have a major railway station within the town. Devotees may travel by train to:

- Hubballi Junction
- Kumta Railway Station
- Talaguppa Railway Station
- Haveri Railway Station

From these railway stations, Sirsi can be reached by bus, taxi, or private vehicle. Hubballi and Kumta are generally convenient railway access points, depending on the traveller's route. [1]

By Air

The nearest major airport is **Hubballi Airport**, located approximately 100–110 km from Sirsi by road. From Hubballi, travellers can continue to Sirsi by taxi or bus.

Speciality of the Temple

Sri Marikamba Temple is regarded as an important centre of Shakti worship in Karnataka.

Its main specialities include:

- Worship of Goddess Marikamba as a powerful form of Durga Devi.
- A large and striking wooden idol of the Goddess.
- Traditional worship connected with the religious customs of the Uttara Kannada region.
- The belief that Sirsi Marikamba is the **"elder sister" of the Marikamba or Durga shrines of Karnataka**. [2]
- The grand two-year Marikamba Jatre.
- Daily Anna Prasadam for devotees.
- A temple complex containing a courtyard, cloisters, sacred images, and traditional decorative features. [2]

History and Legends

The temple is generally dated to **1688 or 1689 CE**. Different sources mention both years; the temple's official website gives 1689, while several historical and travel references mention 1688. [5][2]

According to local tradition, the idol of Goddess Marikamba was discovered in a pond or tank on the road towards Hangal. The local people approached **Immadi Sadashiva Rao II of Sonda** and requested permission to install the idol as the presiding deity of Sirsi. The Goddess was subsequently consecrated and worshipped as the protector of the town and surrounding region. [4][12]

The Goddess is revered as a protective mother who safeguards devotees, removes difficulties, and fulfils sincere prayers. These descriptions belong to local religious tradition and devotional belief.

Architecture

The temple combines traditional North Karnataka and coastal Karnataka religious influences.

Important architectural features include:

- A grand entrance façade.
- A central courtyard.
- Cloisters surrounding the courtyard.
- Images of deities and scenes connected with Hindu epics.
- A sanctum containing the main idol of Goddess Marikamba.
- Traditional decorative paintings and colourful exterior elements.
- A spacious temple complex suitable for large congregations. [2]

The temple's courtyard and surrounding cloisters are particularly noteworthy. Several sacred images and mythological representations can be seen in the temple complex. [2]

Main Deity

The principal deity is **Sri Marikamba Devi, worshipped as:**

- A form of Goddess Durga.
- A manifestation of Shakti.
- A protective village and regional deity.
- A form associated by some traditions with Renuka and Yellamma. [3]

The idol is traditionally described as a large wooden image, approximately seven feet high, and is richly decorated during daily worship and special festivals. [12]

Sub-shrines and Associated Deities

The temple complex contains associated sacred images and subsidiary worship areas. Devotees should obtain the current list of sub-deities from the temple office because the arrangement and names of subsidiary shrines may vary.

As in many Shakti temples, worship may also include:

- Lord Ganesha.
- Guardian deities.
- Serpent deities.
- Other attendant or associated forms of Shakti.

The principal focus of worship, however, remains Goddess Marikamba.

Darshan Timings

Published timings differ slightly among sources and may change during festivals, special days, and temple functions.

A commonly published schedule is:

- **Daily darshan:** Approximately 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
- Some sources mention extended timings up to 10:00 PM on certain days.
- The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments listing gives a general timing of 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. [4][10][11]

Devotees are advised to telephone the temple before travelling, particularly on Tuesdays, Fridays, festival days, and during the Marikamba Jatre.

Daily Rituals and Poojas

The following schedule is commonly published:

Ritual	Approximate Time
Morning Abhisheka	6:00 AM–7:30 AM
Maha Mangalarati	12:00 noon–12:30 PM
Evening Pooja	6:30 PM–7:30 PM
Special Friday Pooja	8:00 AM–9:00 AM

The actual ritual sequence may include alankara, archana, naivedya, deeparadhana, and mangalarati. Timings may change according to the temple calendar. [4][7]

Pooja Charges

The following charges have been published by temple information sources. They should be treated as indicative rather than permanent because seva fees may be revised.

Seva or Pooja	Indicative Charge
Kumkumarchane with Mangalarati	₹10
Udi Seva	₹30
Panchamrita Abhisheka	₹50
Mahapooja	₹150
Pancharasa Fruit Abhisheka and Archana	₹200
Flower Decoration Pooja	₹501
Sapthashati Parayana	₹2,001
Bhaktakoti Fund and Anna Santarpane	₹2,501
Pallakki Utsava Pooja	₹6,001
Deepotsava Permanent Seva	₹6,001

Devotees should confirm the current charges at the official temple counter and obtain a receipt for every seva. [10]

Special Poojas and Sevas

The following services may be available according to the temple calendar and administrative arrangements:

- Abhisheka.
- Panchamrita Abhisheka.
- Kumkumarchane.
- Mahapooja.
- Fruit Abhisheka.
- Flower decoration.
- Sapthashati Parayana.
- Pallakki Seva.
- Deepotsava.
- Anna Santarpane.
- Special Friday worship.
- Family sankalpa and devotional offerings.

Advance registration may be necessary for certain sevas, especially during Navaratri, Fridays, and the Marikamba Jatre.

Festivals Celebrated

Marikamba Jatre

The Marikamba Jatre is the most famous festival of Sirsi.

- It is generally held once every two years.
- The festival is usually associated with the Phalguna season.
- The Goddess is taken in a ceremonial procession.
- A traditional wooden chariot, religious ceremonies, cultural programmes, and public gatherings form important parts of the celebration.
- Devotees from different parts of Karnataka and neighbouring states attend the festival. [3]

During the festival, the Goddess is traditionally taken to a place known as **Marikamba Gadduge**, where she is kept for several days as part of the festival observances. [3]

Older accounts refer to a ritual known as *Kona Bali*. However, animal sacrifice has been discontinued, and symbolic offerings such as breaking a pumpkin are reported in connection with the present tradition. [16]

Other Festivals

The temple also observes:

- Navaratri.
- Jayanti celebrations.
- Kartika festivals.
- Deepotsava.
- Special Tuesday and Friday worship.
- Annual alankara and procession programmes.
- Other events according to the Hindu calendar. [5]

The exact dates should be confirmed from the temple office because they vary each year.

Facilities for Devotees

The temple provides or is reported to provide several facilities:

- Parking area.
- Footwear stand.
- Cloakroom or luggage room.
- Information centre.
- Drinking-water facility.
- Public toilets.
- Bathing and changing facilities.
- Kalyana Mantapa.
- Sabha hall.
- Library and reading room.
- CCTV and security arrangements.
- Daily Anna Prasadam for devotees. [5]

Accommodation

The availability of temple-owned accommodation and its charges should be confirmed directly with the temple office. Sirsi town has several private hotels, lodges, guesthouses, and homestays.

During the Marikamba Jatre, Navaratri, weekends, and public holidays:

- Book rooms well in advance.
- Confirm check-in and cancellation policies.
- Ask whether parking and food facilities are available.
- Consider staying in Sirsi town rather than searching for accommodation near the temple at the last minute.

Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Wear clean and modest traditional or respectable clothing.
- Maintain silence and discipline inside the temple.
- Follow the queue and instructions of temple volunteers.
- Keep footwear at the designated counter.
- Obtain official receipts for poojas and donations.
- Respect the sanctum and temple customs.
- Use dustbins and help maintain cleanliness.
- Follow security instructions during festivals.
- Keep children and elderly family members close during crowded occasions.

Don'ts

- Do not smoke, consume alcohol, tobacco, or gutkha in or near the temple.
- Do not enter restricted areas without permission.
- Do not touch the idol, offerings, or temple objects without authorisation.
- Do not take photographs or videos where photography is prohibited.
- Do not litter the temple premises.
- Do not give money to unauthorised individuals claiming to arrange special darshan.
- Do not make loud conversations or disturb other devotees.
- Do not use personal bank accounts or unknown QR codes for donations.

Nearby Temples

Important temples near Sirsi include:

- **Madhukeshwara Temple, Banavasi:** An ancient temple associated with the historic Kadamba capital.
- **Sahasralinga:** A sacred river site containing numerous Shiva lingas.
- **Idagunji Mahaganapati Temple:** A major Ganesha shrine in Uttara Kannada.
- **Local Ganesha and Shiva temples in Sirsi.**

- **Golikatti and other regional shrines**, depending on the chosen route.

Banavasi and Sahasralinga can be included as part of a religious tour from Sirsi.

Nearby Tourist Attractions

Banavasi

Banavasi is an ancient historical town and former Kadamba capital. The Madhukeshwara Temple is its principal attraction.

Sahasralinga

Sahasralinga is situated on the Shalmala River and is known for numerous Shiva lingas carved on the rocks and riverbed.

Yana

Yana is famous for its unusual black limestone rock formations and forest surroundings.

Unchalli Falls

Unchalli Falls is a scenic waterfall located in the Western Ghats. The approach may require walking on uneven terrain.

Magod Falls

Magod Falls is another notable waterfall and a popular nature destination in the Uttara Kannada region.

Dandeli

Dandeli is known for forests, wildlife, river activities, and adventure tourism.

Gokarna and Murudeshwar

These destinations can be visited on a longer religious and coastal Karnataka tour.

During the monsoon, visitors should check road and weather conditions before travelling to waterfalls and forest areas.

Nearby Hotels

Accommodation is available in and around Sirsi town in the following categories:

- Budget lodges.
- Family hotels.
- Mid-range hotels.

- Restaurants with lodging facilities.
- Private homestays.
- Tourist guesthouses.

Hotel names, room rates, and availability change frequently. For an ebook, it is safer to advise readers to check current listings before travel rather than publishing fixed prices.

Donation Information and Contact

Donations and sevas should be made only through the official temple office or the temple's authorised online channels.

Contact Details

- **Telephone:** +91 83842 26360
- **Alternative number:** +91 08384 200244
- **Chief official:** +91 92411 49319
- **Manager:** +91 94808 98086
- **Email:** sirsimarikamba@gmail.com
- **Alternative email:** sirsimarikamba@rediffmail.com
- **Website:** https://marikambatemple.com
- **Address:** Sirsi–Banavasi Road, Sirsi, Karnataka – 581401 [7][10]

Contact numbers and online facilities may change. Readers should verify the details through the official website or temple office before sending donations or booking a seva.

Best Time to Visit

- **October to March:** Generally comfortable for temple visits and sightseeing. [9]
- **Navaratri:** Suitable for devotees who wish to witness special Shakti worship.
- **Tuesdays and Fridays:** Considered especially important by many devotees, but likely to be more crowded.
- **Marikamba Jatre:** Best for experiencing the temple's grand cultural and religious tradition, but accommodation and transport should be arranged well in advance.
- **Monsoon:** Scenic and green, although roads to waterfalls and forest destinations may be slippery.

> **Note:** The timings, pooja charges, festival dates, facilities, and contact details given in this ebook are subject to change. Devotees are requested to confirm the latest information with the official Sri Marikamba Temple office before planning their visit.

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Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included (see below), giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

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About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
August 16, 2026

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